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BIBLE  
SOCIETY

# Record



*Eva Luoma*

Christmas Around the Book that Gave Us Christmas





# GOD GO WITH YOU

The American Bible Society supplies Scriptures of all types and in many languages to service men.

## "Helping Chaplains Help Their Men"

BY FREDERICK W. CROPP

NO NATION in our war-weary world makes the provision for the spiritual guidance of her armed forces to match the United States. Chaplains and the facilities for worship are in evidence everywhere our troops are stationed.

On the staff of the American Bible Society are eight officers who have seen service as chaplains. Eric North, Edgar Powers and Gilbert Darlington were chaplains in the Army and Navy during World War I. Francis Stiffler served with the YMCA at Great Lakes Naval Training Base during that war. In World War II James Claypool, who served as a Marine in the First World War, was a Navy chaplain, and out of his experiences on the *South Dakota* wrote a widely read book, "God on a Battle Wagon." Richard Ellingson also was a Navy chaplain before he became Secretary of the Northwest District. John Osberg was a regimental chaplain and saw action in the European theater. My own service was principally with the Third Corps Headquarters, which served in Europe under General James A. Van Fleet, now in Korea.

It is natural therefore that, as we look at our work in the American Bible Society, we have in mind the needs of the men in service and our comrades, the chaplains of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force. We know their Scriptural needs by experience. To this column month by month we have contributed in an attempt to interpret these needs to the Bible Society family.

When chaplains meet, either locally or in their annual convention, we attempt to be present. Secretaries Claypool, Osberg, Ellingson and I attended the convention held last May in San Francisco. Both Secretary Claypool and I have served as vice presidents of the Military Chaplains Association. Chaplain Claypool has been on active duty recently at Great Lakes Naval Base and in Washington.

Furthermore it has been my high privilege to meet with the chaplains at the two chaplain schools. The Army and Air Force Chaplains' School is at Ft. Slocum in Long Island Sound, the Navy chaplains are at Newport, Rhode Island as part of the United States Naval School, Navy General Line.

As I meet with these chaplains I find the veterans among them better acquainted with the work of the American Bible Society than any group of ministers in America. And the new chaplains are eager to learn of the wide variety of Scriptures available to aid them in their work of winning men to Jesus Christ and creating a lifelong affection for the Scriptures.

What do chaplains like best about the American Bible Society Scriptures? I think they are pleased to know three things.

First, there is such a variety available for them. There are

loose-leaf, wide-margin Testaments for each chaplain's own personal study and devotional notes. There are lectern and pulpit Bibles for their chapels and ships. There are whole Bibles for permanent installations, day rooms, classrooms, ships' libraries, and for the service men who desire copies of the entire Book. They speak highly of the ministry of the Service Testament which continues to be the major book desired. This Testament has in it also certain Psalms, the Ten Commandments, hymns and prayers, and directions where to look for passages of help in time of need. From it chaplains may and often do conduct services for isolated troops. It has been a handy and helpful volume. Then again, they like the varied portions of Scripture—the Four Gospels bound together in one volume, the small Portions of the New Testament, the larger-type Gospels, the Sermon on the Mount, and the Illustrated Luke and Acts; especially are these illustrated magazine-sized Portions useful in stimulating interest in the Word of God. The chaplains we meet today are continuing to request Scriptures for their men.

The second service our chaplains appreciate is the wide range of our literature. "The Chaplain and His Use of the Bible" has just been revised and reissued. Based on the experience of the chaplains themselves, this brochure has been found invaluable in the chaplains' ministry. Then there is the wide range of leaflets encouraging the use of the Bible. Almost to a man do the chaplains observe the Thanksgiving-to-Christmas Worldwide Bible Reading period in which we are at this time. "It gives my men another link with their homes," one chaplain wrote. Posters and services on Universal Bible Sunday are everywhere in evidence. The chaplains turn to the Bible Society for help in encouraging the reading of the Word.

And finally the chaplains are deeply grateful to the Churches and the individuals in America who make these Scriptures and this literature available to them free of charge. Again and again they write, "Thank God for the American Bible Society and those who make this help available!" I assure them that as long as the people of America provide the funds, this important ministry to our Armed Forces will continue. In a recent month nearly \$20,000 was needed to supply the chaplains. In this year that is closing, the American Bible Society has been your steward in supplying over \$150,000 worth of Scriptures to the chaplains.

There is, we believe, no missionary distribution of God's Word so effectively made as that which our chaplains make.

They do their part, these chaplains. We need your help as they continue to say to the American Bible Society, "Send us Scriptures for our men!"



# Bible Society Record

A JOURNAL DEDICATED TO THE WIDER DISTRIBUTION AND USE OF THE  
HOLY SCRIPTURES

VOLUME 96 DECEMBER · 1951 NUMBER 10

## The Bible in the Modern World

IN its long unbroken history of moulding the world's life the Bible has had to match its power with an ever-changing set of circumstances. For long centuries its message had to find ways of penetrating the darkness of illiteracy and of overcoming the curse of superstition, which, though both still seriously limit its effectiveness, once practically dominated the life of the world.

It is one of the miracles of history that the Bible's simple, touching stories of piety and suffering won the hearts of the rude tribesmen of Europe until they brought a thousand warring nations of divergent stock and traditions into the spiritual unity in Christ which that continent attained.

Whenever the Church itself lost its moral and spiritual leadership, it was the Bible that reformed the Church and opened new channels of blessing that have since reached the four corners of the earth.

Always moving from language to language with a facility and faithfulness unmatched in all the history of literature, the Bible in the expanding horizons of the nineteenth century followed the explorers and the discoverers of distant and unknown nations, and through the labors of devoted missionaries began to speak in the tongues of the peoples of the Orient, the Americas, Africa and the Islands of the Sea at a rate that in recent decades has mounted to an average of one new language almost every month.

Through most of these hundreds of years the Bible has met little competition from other books. Medieval Europe had very few; the heavy blanket of illiteracy ruled out books. Even our Puritan forebears had little to read except the Bible, with the result that Colonial America built its schools and colleges around its redemptive teachings—a fact from which our nation is still immeasurably blessed.

How different is today's world! Not only is it surfeited with books which stream from the press of every principal nation in unprecedented numbers, but even the curtain of illiteracy is everywhere being pierced by the chatter of the radio.

And now, in the last few months, the expansion of television is beginning to mould the life of our own nation, at least, into new shapes for the future. In a recent address before a group of church leaders, Mr. Paul A. Walker, Vice Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, said: "When the television freeze is lifted we will witness a rapid and enormous growth of the video medium . . . The Churches of America have a vital stake and interest in this . . . It is their responsibility to see that the message of religion is carefully prepared and effectively presented, and it is the responsibility of the licensees to provide time generously for this message."

In today's and tomorrow's world the Bible must contribute its message over these media of mass communication, if it is to maintain its redemptive place in moulding the minds and souls of men. The hurdles of yesterday—illiteracy, superstition, indifference, isolationism, the Babel of tongues—all these are still at least to some degree obstructing the free course of the Gospel. To them is now being added the necessity of surmounting the obstacle, largely an economic one, that would exclude the Bible and its unifying message of salvation from the mass appeal that undoubtedly will soon be circling the globe, and which by both the ear-gate and the eye-gate will exert a tremendous influence toward unifying the world's interests and thinking. It simply cannot be that the voice of the Lord shall not be heard in this new channel of information and indoctrination.

This much is certain: copies of the Bible in the languages of the people must, with the now rapidly rising literacy index of the nations and the sharpening of the focus of the world upon common interests through these new media of mass communication—more and more millions of copies of the Scriptures—must be persuasively placed in the peoples' hands. This is our job through the expert facilities of the Bible Societies—for Americans, who above all the people of the world are most able to render this service through our own American Bible Society.



# An Eyewitness Reports

*The following paragraphs have been gleaned from addresses given by Mr. J. C. F. Robertson, the Society's Representative in Japan and Korea, since his arrival in the west for a short furlough*

## KOREA

### A Forbidden Bible

As I turn the pages of Bible Society history I am reminded of a story starting in the city of Pyongyang, so long called the Christian capital of Korea. It is the story of an early Bible Society man in China who spent his vacations in Korea. He used to take his Bibles on trips. He was aboard an American trading ship in 1873 and jumped the ship off Korea, bringing his Bibles with him. It was not long before the authorities heard of this act and proceeded to set fire to the ship, for Bibles were not allowed in Korea. Mr. Thomas—for that was his name—was killed, but the deed was already done; the Bibles had washed ashore. A young Korean man who was walking along the shore, probably guided by the Holy Spirit, found one of these Bibles, which was written in Chinese, and took it home with him. This was something of real interest, he thought, as he knew the book had been forbidden in Korea; and rushed home to tell his brothers. He also told his relatives in secret about this book, and they studied the New Testament together. This was the beginning of Christianity in Pyongyang.

### The Most Outstanding Day in Korea

A UN officer said to me that he was not a religious man; in fact, had never thought about religion at all until he was in Pyongyang. He said the first Sunday after the city was liberated the most striking thing happened. The streets were filled with people carrying their Bibles to church. He said it was the most outstanding thing he had seen in Korea. And it all started with the man who cast his books on the waters.

### The Fanaticism of Love

The Communists in Seoul executed the people because they were Christians. Yet when I went into the largest church in Seoul to see if they still had their Bibles in spite of everything, the people had held onto their Bibles. Many Christians had been executed—eight hundred of them—and yet the people had held onto their Bibles. I asked Young Bin Im, Secretary of the Korean Bible Society, the number of Koreans who had retained their Bibles after the occupation. He questioned a pastor, asking him if he would request the congregation to put up their hands if they still had their Bibles. Just about everybody put up his hand.

There were many occasions of people hiding their Bibles when they knew it meant punishment. It is a great experience to know how faithful they have

been. I am sure we have created in the Koreans a counterpart to the fanatics of the Communists in the north. The Communists owe their success to hate. We have based our fanaticism on love. We have done something in South Korea that is an act not of hate, but of love. The South Koreans have been faithful, good Christians.

### The Army Helps

The chaplains have been tremendously helpful. Army transportation has been made available to us, and when Pyongyang fell in the fall of 1950 to the UN troops a general gave priority to deliver Bibles into that city immediately after its capture.

### The New Korean Bible

Mr. Im is now in Tokyo, where he will supervise the publication of the Korean Bible in the Han Kuhl spelling. Mrs. Im and her three children, who had taken refuge during the winter in Pusan, are now back in the shattered city of Seoul. They had a terrible time getting there but are now safe.

Mr. Im feels that it is most important the Bible be published in Han Kuhl (a revised spelling) as quickly as possible. Type must be cast, as there is nothing available for Bible publication in this method of spelling. This spelling is being used by the Korean Government in the schools, and by newspapers.

## JAPAN

### Efficient Colportage

The colportage work is very well organized in Japan. When a colporteur reaches a town or village, traveling there on his bicycle, he first goes to the mayor to obtain permission to sell his books. Then he calls at homes during the day and to the purchaser of a book announces the showing of a film strip at night in the local hall. The admission to the showing will be a Gospel, which he urges the purchaser to read before coming to the show. At the show he will hear more about the contents of the little book he has just bought. Children are also given the Gospels and urged to come to the films. At night the colporteur will arrange a show of one and a half to two hours. Additional religious films are greatly needed. The colporteur pieces out his short religious film with "safety first" and similar subjects which he has secured from the Government.

One of the colporteur superintendents of the Bible Society is a professor of economics. In the morning he teaches in the university and in the afternoon devotes his time to the Japan Bible Society. Another is a pastor with a large church who finds time to



devote to colportage work. A new office has been opened in Osaka and is doing well. There are no signs of any falling off in the colportage work. It must continue and expand, for statistics show that a million are born in Japan every year.

**Goals Ahead**

I met with the Board of Directors of the Japan

Bible Society before I left, and the budget was set up on a plan to accomplish the distribution of 5,000,000 volumes in 1951, thus completing the distribution of ten million books in three years. They are planning a campaign for "A Million Testaments for Japan for 1952." In 1952 we expect to have a million and a half circulation of permanently bound books, not paper-bound Gospels.

# Latin American Vignettes

**Cuba:**

There is a copy of the Bible in a conspicuous place over the desk of Dr. Pedro Rojas, an eloquent Cuban surgeon who practices in the Civil Hospital of Yaguajay. "This Bible," he said, "is privileged to preach or, better, serve as a missionary Bible; for not many times is the doctor obliged to preach. Every person who comes to consult me has to see me personally, and there are many who ask what the book is. When I tell them that it is the Bible, they again ask if I believe in the Book, which gives me an opportunity to speak to them of the Divine Physician, infallible guide in faith and life—all of which leaves many who come here interested in reading the Bible."

**Mexico:**

The Summer Institute of Linguistics (Wycliffe Bible Translators) has been working among the Mexican Indians for the last fifteen years, giving written form to their dialects and preparing for them some simple literature, besides their primers. The most important fact in this great enterprise is that the Gospels and other Books of the New Testament have been translated into these dialects. After such translations are approved by the Versions Department of the American Bible Society, the printing of them is done in bilingual form with the Spanish language. The dialect text appears in large 12-point type, and the Spanish text in 8-point type. At the present time the translators are working simultaneously among forty-two different tribes. The printing of the bilingual Scriptures is done in Mexico. The books already published are the following: Mark in Chol, Maya, Mazateco, Mixteco, Tarahumara, Tzeltal and Zoque; John in Maya, Tarascan and Totonac; Acts in Mazateco; Philippians in Mixteco; I John in Mazateco; the three Epistles of John in Zoque.

**Guatemala:**

A religious leader from the United States traveling in Guatemala was amazed at its degree of religious liberty. In this republic of three million and a half there are more Protestant foreign missionaries than Roman Catholic priests.

During the Christmas season in 1949 the young folks of the Central Presbyterian Church of the capi-

tal city, dressed in choir robes, sang on two occasions the beautiful "Canciones de la Noche Buena," one of Lorenz's Christmas cantatas, in the Central Park. What a change in the public outlook as compared with sixty-three years ago, when the first evangelical missionary arrived in Guatemala City! It was then unsafe to walk the streets at night, and often the



*Scenes like this occur all over Latin America*

missionaries in those days had to ask for police protection.

**Uruguay:**

Colporteur Ismael Cremasco, traveling in the Southern Baptist Mission Bible Coach, encountered one day near Santa Rosa a blind man. Writes Sr. Cremasco, "I spoke to him of the Scriptures, which free men from loneliness and darkness."—"Ah," said the blind man, "why did God permit that I should lose the precious gift of sight? I lost it a short time ago, while earning the necessary support for my family and myself. I am still young, but am useless to my loved ones, since the compensation I receive due to the accident is only a small monthly allowance." Señor Cremasco was equal to the occasion, with its opportunity for service and comfort, and asked permission to enter the blind man's house. "There-upon," he writes, "I read to him the ninth chapter of the Gospel of John, which greatly impressed him. He called his young daughter, asking her to pay for the Bible." To Señor Cremasco he said, "There is a message in this Book for me personally; I have never before heard such beautiful words!"



# "You Shall Have Them, Chaplain"

*The revival which saw 25,000 converts to Christianity just prior to the outbreak of the war in June 1950 is continuing unabated in the prisoner-of-war camps and in other parts of Korea*

AT THE World Congress on Evangelism sponsored by the Youth for Christ International, held at Winona Lake, Indiana last July, Rev. David E. Morken described as "simply amazing" the work carried on by Rev. Harold Voelkel, a former Presbyterian missionary in Korea, who is now serving the United States Forces as a special chaplain to Korean civilians and prisoners of war.

Readers of the *Bible Society Record* will recall frequent mention of his work in recent articles on these pages, reflecting the eager interest with which the Korean P.O.W.'s accept the copies of the Scriptures offered them, enroll in the Bible institutes which have been established in the camps and form congregations, of which Mr. Morken reported at least six had been formed by last July.

Now comes confirmation from Chaplain Ivan L. Bennett of the United States General Headquarters in Tokyo. He writes Secretary North late in August:

I have just returned from the prisoner-of-war camps. There is a very active interest in the Scriptures there. Bible classes, Scripture-memorizing contests and attendance at general services are most encouraging. Hundreds of the officers and men—Chinese and Korean—have made definite commitments, professing their faith in Christ and their determination to study and learn the Christian way of life. I am sending you under separate cover copies of the hymnals compiled for use in the camps. There will be available 165,000 copies of the English-Korean edition. The second printing of the English-Chinese edition has been ordered, bringing the total to 19,500 copies. This will enable us to give a copy to each prisoner who wants it at the time his release comes. I am anxious to have on hand and immediately available a sufficient quantity of the New Testaments in Chinese and Korean to match the hymnals,

so that each man going from the camps may carry, as a part of his prized possessions, the Scriptures from which he has been reading, and the hymn book from which he has been singing. I assure you that none will be wasted. If some are left over, they can be turned over to an agency of the Bible Society. I would greatly appreciate it if you can give

instructions to the Japan Bible Society to make available to me 150,000 copies of the New Testament in Korean and ask Hong Kong to ship me 15,000 copies of the New Testament in Chinese.

These are troubled times. In the providence of God the Bible Society, alone of all the agencies of the Church, is best prepared to meet its obligations. The years of painstaking study of languages and dialects, the patient labors of translators, the generous of-

ferings of Christian people and the wise, sagacious foresight of the Secretaries and the Bible Society Directors are today in evidence. If it seems to you that we turn to you with great demands, it must be remembered that we turn to you, confident that you are God's chosen vessel.

NOTE: At the October meeting of the Board of Managers, approval was given authorizing the Japan Bible Society to produce the Testaments requested for early shipment to Chaplain Bennett.



*Sergeant Robinson (left) is in charge of about fifteen teen-age boys like the two shown here. Each P.O.W. camp has its tent chapel. Chaplain Voelkel is at right rear*



**A chaplain writes...**

The Bible Society has prepared a little leaflet entitled "A Chaplain Writes" with pictures of Chaplain Voelkel and quotations from his letters. Copies of the leaflet will be sent without charge to anyone who desires them. Address Publicity Department, AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY, 450 Park Avenue, New York 22, N. Y.



# "Look at My Bible"

BY RAYMOND M. OLSON

WE REPRINT the following from the parish paper of Our Saviour's Lutheran Church of Minneapolis, Minnesota. It is done with the permission of the author, who is pastor of the church:

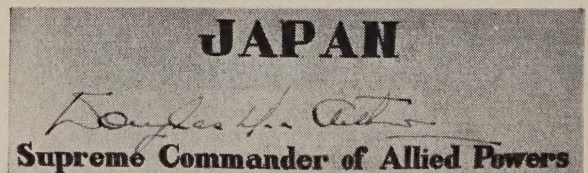
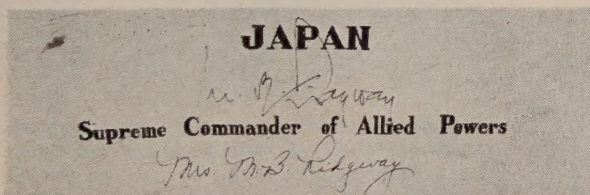
There have been many important things happening around the congregation these opening weeks of the fall season. It probably isn't possible to select the "most important" event of these weeks. Surely one of the most significant happened last Sunday morning. I was in the parish house for a few moments between the two services. The primary department had just been dismissed. One of the little girls spied her pastor and came hurrying over: "See what I got this morning. Look at my Bible!" Her eyes were bright as she spoke. As she spoke I remembered that this was the Sunday when in that department new Bibles were being provided for one of the classes. The plans had been made rather automatically, for the policy had been established long ago that these Bibles would be provided for this class. But this was not automatic; this was something important and personal that had happened—a little girl had her first Bible. She was happy about it, proud of it.

Later in the day I thought of the little girl again and of the many people who had a share in that happy moment and in the significant fact of placing the Holy Bible into her hands and into her home. I thought of the teachers who had prepared her, and her parents, for a realization of

what this Book was. I thought of the congregation that supports the Sunday school with its gifts and its prayers, of the Board which supervises and encourages such policies as this, of the officers of the Sunday school, alert to the best for the children. I thought of those who established such a policy years ago, a good one which has held on as others have taken responsibility. I thought of the great American Bible Society which produced the Bibles and sold them at a reasonable figure, that our funds might go as far as possible. There are so many people who ought to have been standing there when the little girl said, "Look at my Bible!"

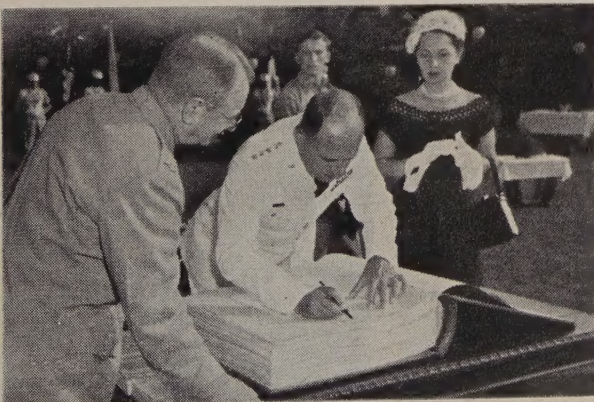
So we have given her a Bible. She knew what it was, but she will find many truths in it which she does not know as yet. Along with the Bible must go our continued concern that she shall love the Christ, whom it reveals, that she shall live her life in the way which it sets forth. We shall continue to be concerned that it shall guide the rest of her childhood, the maturing years of adolescence, the great hopes and goals of youth, the happy and wonderful years of establishing a home and having a Christian husband and bright-eyed little children who in turn shall be happy about a Bible and the Christ of the Bible.

Much of what we do together, much of that for which we pray, was brought to focus in that brief little moment in the hallway last Sunday. We have reason to rejoice in it together and to carry on with the work of the Christian Church. It does bring fruit, it does bring a light.



The "Good Will book" contains the signatures of those who have contributed to the American Bible Society's fund for supplying Scriptures for Japan. The first two volumes were sent to Japan last fall and were accepted at a large public meeting in Tokyo the day after Christmas. Many hundreds of additional signatures were added in Japan, and the pages of Volume III are being filled in this country.

Above are photographs taken of the signatures of Gen. MacArthur (made at the top of the Japan section of Volume I last December), and of Gen. and Mrs. Ridgway, similarly, in Volume II. Below at the left, Chaplain Ivan L. Bennett looks on while General Ridgway signs and Mrs. Ridgway prepares to do so. The little ceremony was held at the General Headquarters Chapel Center in Tokyo. At the lower right an American Army officer who has dropped into the Japan Bible Society's office to leave his contribution signs the book.





# Sowing the



For storage purposes the colporteurs borrowed a large room in a Japanese-style hotel, which in the evenings was converted into a hall for stereopticon lectures

EVERY traveler to Japan includ miles north of Tokyo, is one temple seems to have existed the shrine is the point of central interest to the residents, somewhat as the shrine is reputed in the nineteenth century as hospitable to the Christianity in Tsunetaro Miyakoda, General Secretary of the Christian Church in Japan, letter of September 5, 1951: "How such a place as their object of colportage one of veterans among our colporteurs a field colporteur of that area. Mr. Tanabuchi with him and took many photographs

To bring closer to readers of the importance of seizing the present opportunity of reaching the Japanese community, while the opportunity is here, we reproduce some of Mr. Tanabuchi's



All over the town people saw this poster announcing the stereopticon lecture, reading "Two Gospel Portions will gain you admission." This poster appears on the door of a fruit store

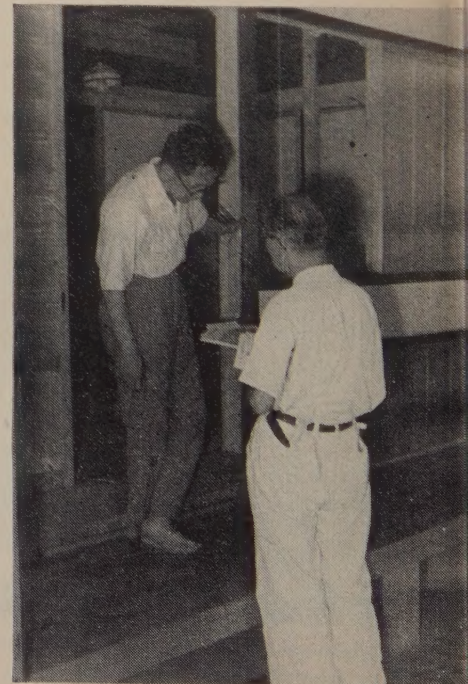


The proprietress of this candy store, patronized principally by children, said she had never read the Bible but readily bought copies of both the Gospels of Luke and John



Persons who do not have Scripture portions can buy them at the entrance to the hall. This woman (center) bought fifty copies of John's Gospel. Presumably she will distribute them to her relatives and friends

This assistant manager of a large Japanese-style hotel bought two copies each of the Gospel of Matthew and the Gospel of John after talking it over with his superior





# ed in Nikko

his itinerary. Nikko, about ninety religious centers of Japan. A Shinto immemorial. Today the Toshogu shrine is the source of many bene- Diana was to the people of Ephesus s, the people of Nikko are not too nity. Commenting on this, Rev. Japan Bible Society, writes in his orteurs did not hesitate to include Japan Bible Society sent Mr. Seki, perate with Rev. Mr. Kuniyoshi, nabe, one of our staff, went there ctivities."

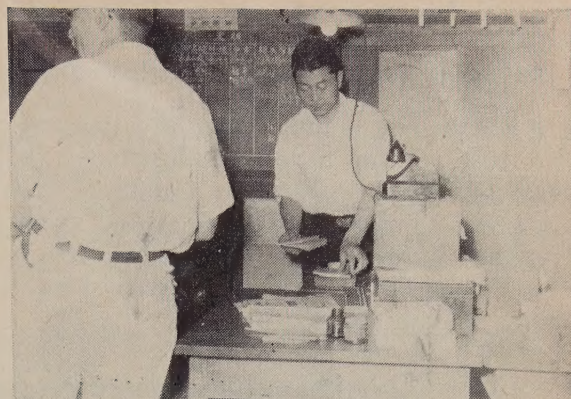
y *Record* the immeasurable impor- y the Christian Scriptures to every n is so general throughout Japan, ictures on these pages.



Mr. Seki does not overlook a carpenter making alterations at a souvenir shop. He bought five Gospel portions



Mr. Kuniyoshi has seven co-workers. They begin in the early morning. They usually work by twos—one a man of experience, the other a learner. Mr. Seki (left) has been a colporteur 30 years. The young man with him gave his summer vacation to the work. His bag contained, when they started, over 100 Gospel Portions



At the office of the bus company Mr. Seki talked with seven men, five of whom each bought a complete set of Gospel portions



The stereopticon lecture begins at 8 o'clock, but the children gather in front of the hall as early as seven. The colporteur tells them simple Bible stories through the hour



One of the colporteur teams consists of two women; housewives can be reached only by women colporteurs. The older woman at the left is the sister of Rev. Mr. Kuniyoshi. Her companion is a learner. It sometimes takes twenty minutes to distribute a Gospel portion at one home



# Scripture Distribution at Bus Depots

BY RALPH W. BAYLESS

MORE than one hundred and fifty thousand Scripture portions have been distributed in Greyhound Bus depots in Northern California during the past seven months. Two hundred and seventy-four clergymen in fifty centers have cooperated with the Society's San Francisco office in establishing, financing and maintaining the plan.



*Two bus patrons help themselves to Gospel portions in a San Francisco depot*

When first interviewed, officials of the Pacific Greyhound Lines granted their hearty approval to the American Bible Society that appropriate plastic Scripture containers be placed in Greyhound Bus depots, that the traveling public might have access to a free supply of Scripture portions.

Local bus-depot agents have been interested and very helpful. One, a non-Protestant, said: "I never knew before that so many people were interested in reading the Bible." Janitors report that they find no Scripture portions on depot floors.

When the idea was first conceived by the District Secretary and Mr. Harry Barnes, a retired public utilities executive, tests in a few centers proved so successful that a printed announcement was made to ministerial associations in sixty-eight centers in Northern California. The announcement brought immediate and wide approval. One pastor said: "This is a wonderful plan for the distribution of the Scriptures. You can count on my church for one-hundred-

percent cooperation." In substance, he spoke for more than two hundred and fifty ministers who now support and help carry on this program in their respective communities.

An appropriate imprint is run on the rear cover of the Gospel portions, stating the city, name and address of the sponsoring churches and an invitation to "attend the church of your choice."

A wide cross-section of Protestant churches support this program. The churches of one denomination in San Francisco requested the privilege of providing the imprinted Scriptures for a period of time. In one town a local service club made available Scriptures for distribution in behalf of the local churches. Not content to confine the project to bus stations, members of the chamber of commerce in a California valley town installed a container in a restaurant which is open twenty-four hours a day at a busy intersection on one of the main East-West highways. A juke-box which plays nothing but sacred music runs all day long. The Scripture container is placed beside the cash register, where hundreds of motorists and truck drivers stop to pay their bills. Expressions of appreciation from many sections of the state have been received commending this particular Scripture outlet.

The manager of a city hospital, hearing of this plan said: "Why can't our hospital have something like that?" On the initiative of the Bible Society, six local churches volunteered as sponsors. A Scripture container was mounted on the front end of the book cart, and every week a hospital attendant wheels this through each room and ward so that the patients may take the Scripture portion of their choice.

It was a touching scene to watch an elderly lady of about eighty in a crowded bus depot walk up to a freshly filled Scripture container and take out copies of the Gospel by St. John and turn to a group of young men in uniform. She advanced and placed a Gospel in the jacket pocket of each. Returning to her seat, she wept quietly as the soldiers went to their bus, "deeply moved."

The manager of a bus depot in one of the larger cities held a copy of the Sermon on the Mount in his hand and remarked: "I used to be an active church member when the kids were at home, but now that they are grown and gone, my wife and I are home alone and—I guess we do need a church home again." An inquiry revealed former church connections. Shortly after, a local pastor of that fellowship called, and now they have a "church home" again.

As the Written Word is distributed through this channel Christians should earnestly pray that thousands of non-church attendants may find their God and His Church.



## Thanks for the Holy Book

WHEN students come together, anything can happen. So it was at a student assembly at Miami University in Ohio one day last year. A worker from one of the old colonial New England colleges fell into conversation with a Moslem student. Soon they were talking about one's personal religious faith. Before they parted the American had presented the Moslem with a New Testament and had impressed upon him the fact that Mohandas Gandhi was loyal to Jesus. He also spoke of a personal Moslem friend of his who himself became a "Jesusist" after reading the New Testament.

Two months passed. The Moslem student read his New Testament; then he wrote his American friend, "Thank you very much for that holy book which you gave me. I have learned so many things out of it. I was the same as that American man who went to Germany and, after speaking to some Germans, came to his friends saying that the Germans are stupid because they do not understand English. I knew everything about Islam and I thought that all the rest are stupid, while I was the one."

He then put on the page two triangular figures illustrating how his life was empty before when he was a follower of Mohammed, and how now his life is filled since he is a follower of Jesus Christ; and, referring to the figures, he wrote, "You will know that I have added something to my religion. Will you please pray for me so that Our Saviour might help me to help my people when I will go back to the Near East?"

At the close of his letter he stated that he had received baptism in a certain church in the town where he was living, and concluded, "Again will you please pray for me, so that this place (meaning the place in his life symbolized by the triangle) will never be empty again, so that I might be a good Christian; and I know that as long as I remain beside Him he will never leave me alone."

Yes, when students meet, anything can happen. In this case the supreme experience of life came to a man because his student friend presented and commended to him the New Testament.

## The Good Book

*Announcing a new audio-visual program*

ONE of the finest filmstrips currently available to churches has just been produced by the American Bible Society. It is entitled "The Good Book" and consists of 89 color pictures on 35mm film; the sound is recorded on phonograph records and runs 21 minutes.

In 1949 the National Broadcasting Company produced a weekly series of half-hour radio programs

called "Living 1949." One of these was entitled "This is the Bible, America," and told the story of the influence of the Bible on America. It was dramatized, using some of the finest available radio talent. A recording was made which the Society was given permission to use. The 89 pictures accompanying the program consist of some original photography, some art-work reproductions of authentic places, people and events, and a quantity of original art depicting



*The Bible went west with the Forty-niners*

the historical periods referred to. The quality of the work has elicited praise from professional artists.

The strip begins with the ancient forms of writing Scripture and moves on to the major events in the development of the English Bible. The influence of the Book on American life is indicated by the dramatization of such events as the sailing of the "Mayflower," the early development of our Government, the founding of the American Bible Society, the westward expansion of the nation and the profound influence of the Bible upon Abraham Lincoln.

The film is recommended for intermediates, young people and adults. It can be used as a complete 20-minute program or as an introduction to a thorough study of the development of the Bible. It may be rented for \$2.50 from any Bible Society Office or may be purchased from them or certain denominational publishing houses. Two kinds of records are available: standard 78-rpm phonograph (2 records, 4 sides), or the newer 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ -rpm microgroove, long-playing records (1 record, 1 side). The film with two 78-rpm records sells for \$15.75; with one 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ -rpm record, for \$13.75. Equipment required for use is a record player, a 35mm filmstrip projector and a screen. Be sure to specify the kind of records wanted.

Here is an audio-visual program which, according to those who have seen it, will be useful for many years to come. It could well be given each year to every new group reaching the intermediate level in the Sunday school. Every member of any age of every church will benefit from seeing and hearing this program.



# World Wide Bible Reading

## "Not Done With This Book"

NEVER before have so many people sought so desperately for guidance as today. Thoughtful Christians are turning hopefully to every available source of comfort and guidance. It is the conviction of the American Bible Society that amid the discouraging conditions confronting today's world the messages of Scripture have a significance never previously paralleled.

Today confused, apathetic leaders need the stirring, stinging challenges of the Prophets of the eighth century B.C. Today the distressed, helpless, over-burdened masses need the comforting, reassuring promises which illumine Holy Writ. Today all sorts and conditions of men need the steadying and stimulating words of Jesus found on the pages of the New Testament.

"The Way Out of the Dark" is the theme for Universal Bible Sunday, which occurs this year on Sunday, December 9. In writing the brochure for ministers for use on this "The Bible's Day," Dr. J. R. Sizoo has concluded his sermon address (which has already brought much favorable comment) with the trenchant sentence: "The world is not done with this Book, but the world is done without it." That Christian people believe this declaration to be a fact is indicated by the unexpectedly large orders for Bible Sunday materials this year—4,000,000 responsive readings, instead of the 3,000,000 in 1950, and 14,500,000 bookmarks, as against 12,000,000 the previous year.

Promoted yearly by the American Bible Society, aided by cooperating state and city Bible Societies, Universal Bible Sunday aims to secure widespread concentration of attention upon the following of the Scriptures in meeting and solving the problems of life. Its observance this year, in view of conditions which its teachings can alleviate, will be more than ordinarily useful.

As you join in congregational worship in your own church on this day, will you not say a prayer for the others who are observing it? Among those who are joining in will be prisoners behind the bars. From a chaplain at such an institution have come the lines:

We desire here at . . . . State Woman's Prison to observe Universal Bible Sunday, December 9. We are planning a program of song and story giving the entire history of the Bible. This will all be given by our women inmates. They much enjoy giving such programs, and I feel that this will be of great spiritual blessing.

Another comes from an Army chaplain, written from the Sasebo, Japan Replacement Depot:

We are working with troops going to and from Korea. They are much concerned. I am very much impressed with the men coming from combat. They are very religiously minded. We pray that we can keep them thus. I hope to make every effort in using this year's theme to impress the importance of the Bible to them.

The security of Protestantism demands today a wider knowledge of the Bible and a deeper interest in it. More than that, the welfare of the world is dependent on it. From the seven seas and from every quarter of the earth we are told that Jesus is the hope of the world. But merely talking about Him will never

fulfill; help will come only when learning about Him, knowing what His way of life demands and following it. He himself said, "Blessed are they who hear the word of God, and keep it." No, we are not done with this Book! It is the way out of the dark. It is the Word of God to you.

## The Bible Sunday Poster in Spanish



*The Bible Sunday Poster is being widely used in Latin America and in the Southwest. Hundreds of thousands of the Reading lists (also Stories), have been distributed.*

## Thanksgiving to Christmas

WITH ADDITIONAL SELECTIONS TILL NEW YEAR'S

Thanksgiving, Nov. 22	Psalms 116	12	Luke	15:11-32
23	Psalms 139	13	Ephesians	4
24	Psalms 23	14	II Timothy	2
Sunday, Nov. 25	Psalms 34	15	Revelation	22
26	Psalms 46	Sunday, Dec. 16	Romans	12
27	Deuteronomy 5:1-24	17	I Corinthians	13
28	Joshua 1	18	I Corinthians	15:1-34
29	Isaiah 55	19	I Corinthians	15:35-58
30	Micah 6:1-15	20	Galatians	6
Saturday, Dec. 1	Matthew 25	21	Philippians	4:1-13
Sunday, Dec. 2	John 1:1-17	22	James	1
3	John 3	Sunday, Dec. 23	Luke	2:1-20
4	Matthew 5:1-26	24	Matthew	1:18-25
5	Matthew 5:27-48	Christmas, Dec. 25	Matthew	2:1-15
6	Matthew 6		Acts	6
7	Matthew 7	26	Acts	6
8	Luke 8:1-21	27	I John	1
Universal Bible		28	Mark	10:1-27
Sunday, Dec. 9	Psalms 119:1-16	29	Mark	10:28-52
10	John 14	Sunday, Dec. 30	Psalms	16
11	John 15	31	Psalms	91



# EDITORIAL COMMENT

## Bible Society Record

*A Journal Dedicated to the Wider Distribution and Use of the Holy Scriptures*

Editors: THE SECRETARIES

Address correspondence to the

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FRANCIS CARR STIFLER

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### December Radio Programs

Secretary Stifler will be heard every Tuesday for two months, beginning December 4, in his sixth annual network series in the popular program, "Faith in Our Time," featuring Harvey Harding in Gospel songs and organ selections. The program is heard over the stations of the Mutual Broadcasting System (except WOR, New York City) at 10:15 a.m.,

Eastern Standard Time. As certain stations reproduce the program by transcription at other hours, listeners should call their Mutual Network station to ascertain the hour. The topics for December will be: December 4, "The Way Out of the Dark"; December 11, "Then They Remembered the Bible"; December 18, "Christmas for Prisoners of War in Korea."

All four of the major networks and hundreds of local stations will present programs in celebration of Worldwide Bible Reading and Universal Bible Sunday. The network programs are as follows: The Columbia Broadcasting System has allocated its "Church of The Air" on Sunday morning, December 9, 10:30 to 11:00 E.S.T., to the celebration, presenting Senator Styles Bridges of New Hampshire as the speaker; The Mutual Broadcasting System has assigned its popular program, "Northwestern Reviewing Stand" originating in Chicago for a discussion of "Why More People Are Reading the Bible" on Sunday, December 2, one week before Bible Sunday, at 12:30 C.S.T.; On the National Broadcasting Company network Dr. Luther A. Weigle will discuss the theme "A New Look at the Bible" with Dr. Eugene Nida, the Society's Secretary for Translations and Mr. Wallace C. Speers, Vice President of James T. McCutcheon and Company and President of the Laymen's Movement for a Christian World.

The American Broadcasting Company is devoting its well-known program "National Vespers" on Sunday, December 9th, 1:30 to 2:00 p.m., E.S.T. to the celebration. Dr. Louis H. Evans, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Hollywood, California, will speak on "The Royal Book."

\* \*

Through a gift made by one individual for that specific purpose, the American Bible Society has provided for the Truman Memorial Library, at Grandview, Missouri, two hundred and forty copies of the Scriptures in 120 languages. This gift not only points out the primary place of the Bible in all libraries, but also at the same time complies with the policy of the Society to place copies of the Scriptures in bomb-proof depositories in scattered locations across the country. Such collections have in recent years been stored in Boulder, Colorado and at Hanover, New Hampshire. If, as a result of atomic attack (which God forbid!) such books would be needed for immediate copying by offset processes, it is advisable to have several copies of each book available because of the possibilities of imperfections showing up in the process. Unfortunately also, when a book is photographed the printers often damage or stain the pages so that they are not usable for the printing of subsequent editions.

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